(a) whether Government are aware of the new game plan of Pakistan to isolate Indian Army at the LO

C by cutting the B. C. Road and Jammu Punch Road by occupying important mountain features of these two main highways ; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon to forestall the move ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Though there are reports of concentration of armed militants in some pockets across the LOC, there are no specific inputs that may suggest the said game plan.

(b) All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.

Armed Hostility by Pakistan Across LOC

2764. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated the 11th March, 2000 under the caption "Army expects another hot summer in LOC" ;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken in the light of Subrahmanyam Committee's report to prevent the recurrence of armed hostility by Pakistan across the line of Control ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the news-item.

All appropriate measures to protect our national security concerns have been taken.

Pension Cases of Defence Personnel

2765. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that release of enhanced pension is not being done with due diligence ;

(b) what are the reasons for a slow approach to streamline such matters of pension ;

(c) whether it is a fact that even widows whose husband died in service prior to 1950 have not had so far the arrears of enhanced pension released ;

(d) how many such representations are pending with Government ;

(e) to what extent have Government not improved matters with regard to pension of families of defence personnel ; and

(f) the steps proposed to improve and streamline such matters ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) As per Government order issued on 24-11-1997 Pension Disbursing Authorities, viz branches of Public Sector Banks, Defence Pension Disbursing Offices and Treasuries were authorised to consolidate the service/family pension and pay the arrears and consolidated pension on revised rates with effect from 1-1-1996 to pensioners/family pensioners directly without any authorisation from pension Sanctioning Authorities. The consolidated family/ family pension so paid was an interim measure so as to provide in immediate relief to pensioners. So far as post 1-1-1996 retirees are concerned pension/ family pension has been revised in all cases by Pension Sanctioning Authorities.

Further orders were issued on 27-5-1998 for revision of pension/family pension for Commissioned Officers and on 14-7-1998 in respect of PBOR pensioners who retired/died before 1-1-1996. The work of revision of pension for PBOR has been entrusted to the Pension Disbursement Authorities (PDA) with reference to pension tables annexed with those orders. Only in isolated cases where PDAs are unable to fix the revised Pension for want of Pensioners' records, such cases are to be referred to Pension Sanctioning Authorities through Record Offices. The above approach was adopted for expeditious revision of pension/family pension of all Defence pensioners. As and when any case for non revision/delay in revision of pension/family pension is brought to the notice of the Government, immediate steps are taken to ensure payment of revised pension by taking up the complaint with the concerned P.D.A.

Continuous monitoring is being done at various levels to ensure payment of revised pension to all pensioners.